

# Text Completions

Select one entry for each blank from the corresponding column of choices. Fill in the blank in the way that best completes the text.

1. In Europe, football, otherwise known as soccer, is the most popular sport by several orders of magnitude, whereas in America, fandom is fairly evenly \_\_\_\_\_ among a few different sports.

regarded
inspired
enjoyed
measured
apportioned

2. The astrophysicist argues that our books and films about interstellar space travel are a form of mass \_\_\_\_\_, and that only a miracle on a scale heretofore unseen could allow a human being to voyage to even the closest star in another solar system.

innovation
delusion
dementia
catastrophe
hysteria

3. Peculiarly enough, Shakespeare has been often (i) \_\_\_\_\_ as the best English language playwright, and often (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ as a man lacking the education to write those plays.

Blank (i)    Blank (ii)

crowded	demoralized
stigmatized	dismissed
castigated	deified

4. Although it was not the university's policy to (i) \_\_\_\_\_ the authority of its faculty, the president felt that the professor's comments regarding affirmative action could not remain (ii) \_\_\_\_\_.

Blank (i)    Blank (ii)

defend	unavailed
ruminate	unchallenged

undermine	averred
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5.In order to defend downloading music illegally,it's necessary to engage in a bit of ethical (i) \_\_\_\_\_.While it is true that traditional record labels (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ their artists— demanding indefensibly large percentages of their profits— downloading a song illegally is equally (iii) \_\_\_\_\_,because it robs both the label and the artist.

B lank (i)    B lank (ii)    B lank (iii)

contortion	swindle	justifiable
leniency	disabuse	unconscionable
probity	deluge	scrupulous

6.The fact that the average life expectancy ten thousand years ago was so much shorter than it is now is often (i) \_\_\_\_\_ as evidence supporting the notion that the world always improves with time.However,if you (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ for the fact that most children in that epoch died in childbirth,it turns out that life expectancy back then was nearly the same as it is now .On a (iii) \_\_\_\_\_ note,it also turns out that many “barbaric” hunter-gatherer tribes were taller on average than the average person now living.

B lank (i)    B lank (ii)    B lank (iii)

cited	prepare	contrastive
disregarded	read	sidereal
embodied	correct	tangential

7.On an aptitude test in 1986,an argument posited that the possibility of conducting banking transactions from home was as likely as flying cars,an argument that today sounds \_\_\_\_\_.

prescient
paradoxical
presumptuous
preposterous
pithy

8.Napoleon is of course most famous for his military triumphs,but his innovative code of law had a subtler but more \_\_\_\_\_ impact,as its principles strongly influenced legal codes well into the 20th century.

renowned
enduring
fleeting
insidious
impartial

9.Many \_\_\_\_\_ people feared for the life of Ronald Reagan because since 1840,every president elected in a year ending in zero had died in office.

know ledgeable
m athem atical
superstitious
addled
conservative

10.K now n for her hum orous but acerbic w it,the fashion doyen ne com m ented,in her usual,sim ultaneously (i) \_\_\_\_\_ and (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ m anner,that in Los A ngeles,“the w om en dressed like m en and the m en dressed like boys.”

B lank (i)	B lank (ii)
sland erous	considerate
am using	hysterical
serious	caustic

11.Every generation is accused of slacking by the preceding ones,before in turn calling their ow n progeny lackadaisical;such is the \_\_\_\_\_ of life.

vicissitude
irony
circle
serendipity
com edy

12.A lthough retired,the professor takes pains to rem ain \_\_\_\_\_ the latest developm ents in her field.

akim bo to
abreast of
obtuse to
subservient to
askance to

13.She w as not the only (i) \_\_\_\_\_ of the long-proposed legislation,but she w as the (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ w ho finally got the bill onto the legislative agenda.

B lank (i)	B lank (ii)
apologist	catalyst
critic	m ercenary
proponent	lackey

14.Jerem y w as not one to (i) \_\_\_\_\_ his success,so his fam ily w as shocked w hen they finally discovered that

their (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ son was a Rhodes Scholar.

B blank (i) B blank (ii)

demarcate	prodigal
withewash	taciturn
trumpet	dissolute

15. The elderly woman was (i) \_\_\_\_\_ to have returned to her the ring that she had lost fifty years before in the (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ waters of the Mississippi River.

B blank (i) B blank (ii)

dumbfound	turbid
addled	turgid
enervated	tepid

16. Hursthouse, (i) \_\_\_\_\_ virtue ethicists in general, argues that ethics is properly neither situational nor utilitarian and that one ought to seek out virtue and emulate it rather than base one's judgments on subjective concerns or a (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ weighing of pain and pleasure likely to result from a given action; critics, of course, tend to (iii) \_\_\_\_\_ that Hursthouse and other virtue ethicists who seek to define virtue merely seek to enshrine their own prejudices under the guise of theory.

B blank (i) B blank (ii) B blank (iii)

enigmatic to	pragmatic	posit
breaking away from	quixotic	deny
embellish of	grandiloquent	cajole

17. The film was (i) \_\_\_\_\_ (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ by critics; not a single reviewer had any positive thing to say about it.

B blank (i) B blank (ii)

warily	lauded
mendaciously	panned
roundly	venerated

18. Socrates advocated a life of moderation: live (i) \_\_\_\_\_, drink (ii) \_\_\_\_\_, and (iii) \_\_\_\_\_.

B blank (i) B blank (ii) B blank (iii)

apathetically	sparingly	fight for one's beliefs
lavishly	copiously	do nothing to excess
modestly	brusquely	remain inscrutable always

19. After the US Civil War, "carpetbaggers"—so-called because they carried suitcases made of inexpensive carpeting material—\_\_\_\_\_ the South, hoping to turn a quick profit.

vanquished
inundated
blacklisted
boycotted
berated

20. D ecember's earthquake w as but a \_\_\_\_\_ to a terrible year for a sm all island nation recently w racked by civil strife and devastating tropical storm s.

prologue
catharsis
coda
hom ily
ram page

21. A lthough they had never m et, the tw o w riters felt they w ere of one m ind, each (i) \_\_\_\_\_ anticipating the contents of the other's letters; never had tw o intellectuals been m ore (ii) \_\_\_\_\_.

B lank (i)	B lank (ii)
om inously	providential
anachronistically	shrew d
presciently	sim patico

22. A fter m any years of w ar and bloodshed, som e becam e \_\_\_\_\_ suffering, casting a blind eye to scenes of m isery around them .

inured to
exem pted from
dom inant over
effusive tow ards
m audlin over

23. A fter a brief initial struggle over pow er, the group elected a leader and \_\_\_\_\_ into a surprisingly harm onious team .

fractured
syncopated
coalesced
agglom erated
am ortized

24.The director inserted deliberate \_\_\_\_\_ into the play— for exam ple,H am let typed his letters to O phelia on a laptop.

platitudes
paradigm s
neologism s
derivations
anachronism s

25.The ancient tablet presents a true \_\_\_\_\_: none have been able to decode it.

gem
stanza
quagm ire
enigm a
incentive

26.A ccording to supporters of progressive taxation,the paym ent of higher tax rates by those w ith higher incom es, those w ho (i) \_\_\_\_\_ such taxation system s tend to fall into tw o cam ps: the (ii) \_\_\_\_\_,w ho feel it unjust that the “m ost industrious” am ong us are “penalized” for their success,and the (iii) \_\_\_\_\_,w ho argue that higher taxes on the rich w ill harm us all by dam pening the entrepreneurial spirit that drives the econom y.

B lank (i)    B lank (ii)    B lank (iii)

rail against	autodidacts	libertines
vote for	m oralists	utilitarians
depredate	recidivists	m yrm idons

27.Just as rem iniscences of a childhood spent in rural M exico color the poet’s w ork,so too does the experience of w ar \_\_\_\_\_ her poetry.

inform
m im ic
invalidate
defer
presage

28.The peanut is often (i) \_\_\_\_\_ referred to as a nut;(ii) \_\_\_\_\_ to such people,it is actually a legum e.

B lank (i)    B lank (ii)

archaically	unbeknow nst
erroneously	abhorrent

deftly	consanguineous
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29.The (i) \_\_\_\_\_ child approached the diving board;(ii) \_\_\_\_\_ w ater in the first place,he found the prospect of jum ping into it from som e height even m ore frightening.

B lank (i)	B lank (ii)
trem ulous	beguiled by
coltish	chary of
cum bersom e	repulsed by

30.Soldier ants are w ingless,sterile fem ales that guard the colony and supply it w ith food,thus acting as both (i) \_\_\_\_\_ and laborers as the (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ queen produces enough (iii) \_\_\_\_\_ to continually populate the colony.

B lank (i)	B lank (ii)	B lank (iii)
sentries	fecund	forebears
sages	efficacious	progeny
sycophants	im perious	harbingers

31.The Paris C om m une w as a governm ent that ruled France for about tw o m onths in 1871;despite its (i) \_\_\_\_\_ reign,it w as at the tim e (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ as a sign of the em ergence of a pow erful w orking class.

B lank (i)	B lank (ii)
equivocal	discounted
ephem eral	recanted
om nipotent	heralded

32.The property,hidden by overgrow n plants,had not only fallen into (i) \_\_\_\_\_,but appeared positively (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ by verm in.

B lank (i)	B lank (ii)
m isanthropy	overrun
desuetude	outdone
debauchm ent	ham pered

33.That the C EO ’s son w as pleasant enough w as not in doubt,but the (i) \_\_\_\_\_ young m an w as hardly (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ enough to bargain on the com pany’s behalf.

B lank (i)	B lank (ii)
puissant	egoistic
restive	blithe
com plaisant	artful

34.H e has such a pleasingly (i) \_\_\_\_\_ personality that it’s hard to be bothered by the (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ in his past.

B lank (i)      B lank (ii)

sanguine	peccadilloes
high-handed	incendiaries
salubrious	achievements

35.The substitute French teacher accidentally walked into the wrong classroom ,creating \_\_\_\_\_ situation when she began speaking French to 15 mystified physics students.

an odious
apocryphal
arbitrary
acursory
an arch

36.The (i) \_\_\_\_\_ young employee was soon (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ for making a serious mistake that cost the company thousands of dollars.

B lank (i)      B lank (ii)

banal	enamored
ginger	castigated
verdant	deposed

37.The beauty pageant contestant told the judges she wanted world peace,but her suggestion to bring about world peace was \_\_\_\_\_ — apparently,she naively thinks everyone could just be told to “love one another” and all the world’s disagreements would fade away.

convoluted
facile
impeccable
amicable
dulcet

38.Introverts prefer a quiet,reflective lifestyle,whereas extroverts are more \_\_\_\_\_.

doctrinaire
convivial
sanguinary
jejune
modish



39.W hile the author’s first collection of short stories presented a (i) \_\_\_\_\_ hodgepodge of voices,the second collection presents a rem arkably (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ set of tales presented by a (iii) \_\_\_\_\_ narrator.

B lank (i)        B lank (ii)   B lank (iii)

m otley	insightful	lonely
variegated	even	disingenuous
hom ogeneous	facetious	sole

40.The transform ation of the N FL from a running-oriented gam e to a passing-oriented gam e dem onstrates that,in any profession,w hen the \_\_\_\_\_ proves m ore successful than the tim e-honored,industry leaders w ill em brace the new w ith alacrity.

aerial
exciting
novel
conventional
controversial

41.A fter struggling to m aintain her com posure for hours upon hearing of her late husband’s infidelities,the recently bereaved w idow finally burst into \_\_\_\_\_.

hysterics
laughter
song
m irth
flam es

42.The virtual (i) \_\_\_\_\_ of John F.K ennedy focuses on his presidential achievem ents,legend,and assassination; sim ilarly,as a candidate,verbal and w ritten (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ w ere laid at the altar of his w artim e exploits.

B lank (i)        B lank (ii)

deification	calum nies
excoriation	garlands
adoration	obloquies

43.For centuries,com m ercial portrait painters have em ployed a bifurcated aesthetic: like other artists,they strive to represent the truth that gives their w orks life,but com m erce dictates that they sim ultaneously em ploy subtle \_\_\_\_\_ that m ake the likeness m ore attractive than the sitter.

palettes
aesthetics
artifacts

artifices
sentiments

44.Dogmatic professors often alienate their classes because they fail to realize that their \_\_\_\_\_ enervates rather than inspires students.

wisdom
pedantry
parsimony
pulchritude
wit

45.General McClellan focused so intently on the petty, logistical details of the upcoming campaign that Lincoln felt that said attention to \_\_\_\_\_, however necessary, had superseded more lofty goals.

irrelevancies
tactics
minutiae
strategy
peccadilloes

46.Jimmy Stewart, the actor, spoke with an (i) \_\_\_\_\_ that (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ audiences; through hesitancy and understatement, he was at least as captivating as his flamboyant peers.

B blank (i)                      B blank (ii)

awkward lisp	enthralled
overwhelming passion	repelled
appealing shyness	amused

47.The most startling aspect of Preston Brooks, the 19th century southern congressman, was his temperament, (i) \_\_\_\_\_ to the point of violence. While a man of principles, he did not merely piously pray for political converts— more likely, opposition would cause him to become (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ and fly in to a rage. Famously, he once (iii) \_\_\_\_\_ a foe into unconsciousness on the floor of the Senate.

B blank (i)    B blank (ii)                      B blank (iii)

quixotic	figuratively unstrung	bored
volatile	literally insane	caned
quiescent	practically incomprehensible	lulled

48.Ironically, the commentator who so roundly condemned personal (i) \_\_\_\_\_ was (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ to the point of bankruptcy— he himself was a reflection of an aspect of the ills that, in other areas, he railed against.

B blank (i)    B blank (ii)



overture
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53. There are no other contemporary novelists whose works resemble those of Thomas Pynchon, but his appeal rests on more than the (i) \_\_\_\_\_ displayed in his work. In an age when novelists largely limit their observations to lightweight banter about sexuality, Pynchon still offers (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ commentary about human nature.

Blank (i)      Blank (ii)

patrimony	trenchant
eccentricity	enigmatic
orthodoxy	insipid

54. Crane Brinton argued that the middle phases of revolutions are especially (i) \_\_\_\_\_ because the unleashed force of social momentum transfers power inexorably from more stable (if oppressive) forces to less temperate ones. Yet, he then goes on to say that the excesses (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ and a more peaceful period of “Thermidor” ensues.

Blank (i)      Blank (ii)

brusque	metastasize
berserk	grow
pacific	recede

55. The Donner party made a \_\_\_\_\_ choice to try to cross the Rockies too late in the season, and they paid dearly for that dangerous decision.

prudent
parlous
suicidal
semiotic
providential

56. Struggling with the uphill descent, the ancient jalopy blew a gasket when it reached the level plateau, and then the car slowly \_\_\_\_\_ to a stop.

careened
castigated
trundled
tarried
transmuted

57. Frederick the Great of Prussia was known for his (i) \_\_\_\_\_ under fire during his military victories; however, when confronting issues of domestic policy, this equilibrium sometimes failed him. He was often (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ with his ministers, who never knew when they might be subjected to one of his tirades.

B lank (i) B lank (ii)

intrepidity	fascist
cruelty	mercurial
sangfroid	vainglorious

58. During the mating season, mammals of many species may lie (i) \_\_\_\_\_ to their mates; yet, for the remainder of the year, some of those species lead utterly solitary and (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ existences.

B lank (i) B lank (ii)

paramount	inconsolable
apposed	irascible
enamored	eremitic

59. At the beginning of the 20th century, wealthy business leaders piteously (i) \_\_\_\_\_ that child labor laws would ruin them and corrupt the youth; one hundred years later, members of the modern (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ similarly bemoan that any government intervention will bankrupt them and contribute to the moral (iii) \_\_\_\_\_ of the less-moneyed classes.

B lank (i) B lank (ii) B lank (iii)

besmirched	oligarchy	rectitude
bleated	hierarchy	scruples
postulated	monarchy	turpitude

60. The library wing was first conceived merely as (i) \_\_\_\_\_ to address the problem of book overstock until a more permanent solution could be found. Ironically, it was the flimsy nature of the wing itself that attracted such architectural interest and ultimately led to its canonization as a (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ of its kind. Now a statute exists to protect this originally transient structure in (iii) \_\_\_\_\_.

B lank (i) B lank (ii) B lank (iii)

a stopgap	paragon	consecration
an ornament	nadir	chronology
amodicum	catalyst	perpetuity

61. Though the negotiation was initially expected to proceed smoothly, it soon became apparent that any appearance of (i) \_\_\_\_\_ between the parties was disingenuous or, at best, a superficial adherence to certain (ii) \_\_\_\_\_.

B lank (i) B lank (ii)

duplicity	mores
amity	politics
solace	plaudits

62. While some feel that the author's (i) \_\_\_\_\_ late in his life (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ his reputation, others felt that his

dissolution added a certain glam our to his biography and credibility to his libertineous tales.

B lank (i)      B lank (ii)

vitiatio	derogated from
debauchm ent	bedizened
deterioration	aggrandized

63.The children’s story— seem ingly a sim ple tale of anim als gathering for a picnic in the forest— took \_\_\_\_\_  
turn at the end,adm onishing readers to alw ays be honest.

agenerous
acynical
ajocular
an irate
adidactic

64.The plan,if it can be called that,has been m ore of a (i) \_\_\_\_\_ vision than a concrete  
proposal;like m any sim ilarly (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ ideas,it is unlikely to ever com e to fruition.

B lank (i)      B lank (ii)

D ionysian	quixotic
protean	pragm atic
m artial	unorthodox

65.It w as a fact that the region w as both quiet and rural,but w hat the typically im poverished residents considered (i)  
\_\_\_\_\_ refuge w as considered by the w ell-heeled visitors to be an intolerable (ii)  
\_\_\_\_\_,and its residents’ lifestyles unpleasantly (iii) \_\_\_\_\_.

B lank (i)      B lank (ii)      B lank (iii)

a parochial	penum bra	tony
an arcadian	utopia	spartan
a squalid	hinterland	apollonian

66.The biography,a (i) \_\_\_\_\_ account of a (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ life,w as a gripping read,though hardly  
appropriate for young readers.

B lank (i)              B lank (ii)

faux-naif	callow
no-holds-barred	stonew alled
dyed-in-the-w ool	storied

67.The club had been all m ale up until 1963,w hen it began to adm it w om en,w ho now m ake up m ore than 65 percent

of the membership;hence,the female club president was both annoyed and amused at an elderly male member's (i) \_\_\_\_\_ suggestion that women be shuffled off to (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ organization where they could play bridge and drink tea without having to worry about serious issues.

Blank (i)      Blank (ii)

regressive	an incendiary
rustic	an auxiliary
prudish	a hierarchical

68.Although this historical figure had been (i) \_\_\_\_\_ politician and a brilliant inventor,the professor found himself unable to (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ the interest of his students in the career of a man with such anachronistic views.

Blank (i)      Blank (ii)

a clandestine	whet
a deft	accrue
an effete	tout

69.Though the industry leader faces prosecution while the smaller company is legally shielded from consequences due to a crafty system of hiring outside firms to do its dirty work,the smaller firm is clearly (i) \_\_\_\_\_ with the larger one,(ii) \_\_\_\_\_ the larger firm's plans to dominate the industry through illegal labor practices and offshore dumping.

Blank (i)      Blank (ii)

at loggerheads	colluding
in cahoots	stymieing
preoccupied	abetting

70.The organizer of the university's series of public debates commented that it is difficult to find a suitable adjudicator for debates on certain controversial matters,as there exist topics in regards to which no one is \_\_\_\_\_.

pellucid
disinterested
solipsistic
jocular
subjective

71.It was difficult to tell whether his tirade in fact had force of fact,whether his forceful (i) \_\_\_\_\_ was mere (ii) \_\_\_\_\_,motivated by malice,or whether it ranked as reportorial (iii) \_\_\_\_\_ of which the committee ought take notice.

Blank (i)      Blank (ii)      Blank (iii)

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fulmination	sophistry	miscreant
desecration	boosterism	calumny
ululation	aspersion	prattle

72. Her grandparents valued seemliness above all else, and were (i) \_\_\_\_\_ at her incorrigibly (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ behavior.

Blank (i)    Blank (ii)

loquacious	miscreant
agog	indelicate
nonchalant	tortuous

73. It was apparent to everyone present that upon receiving the medal, a decoration long past due, the superannuated veteran adopted a mood of exaggerated hilarity, almost as if the unexpected resolution of a lifetime of injustice came as a \_\_\_\_\_ surprise.

sanctimonious
risible
parsimonious
prodigal
plangent

74. There are many good reasons to construct urban traffic lanes for cyclists: city infrastructure is already \_\_\_\_\_ under the strain of excess auto traffic, and the safety advantages of limiting road-sharing between cyclists and vehicles are all too clear.

seething
waiting
groaning
baying
intensifying

75. Despite their diminutive stature, horse jockeys are far from \_\_\_\_\_ bunch: many would all-too-happily allow minor umbrage to escalate to barroom brawl.

astygian
afarcical
an effete
an evocative
an ecumenical

76. The apparent simplicity of a cup of coffee \_\_\_\_\_ the dizzying number of hours of toil required to produce it,



from months of cultivation of the bean tree to painstaking refinement in highly sophisticated machinery.

redresses
confirms
belies
furnishes
fosters

77. Notwithstanding the mishmash of worn tools littering every surface of the artist's studio, the place exuded a certain sense of order manifest through the clutter; the decor was, if (i) \_\_\_\_\_, (ii) \_\_\_\_\_.

Blank (i) Blank (ii)

unkempt	largely unsophisticated
dire	positively callous
arduous	surprisingly deliberate

78. Two years after the legislature's (i) \_\_\_\_\_ approval of the community edifice, construction came to an equally public standstill, largely due to the unforeseen hemorrhaging of the (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ funds at the hands of spendthrift leaders.

Blank (i) Blank (ii)

scorned	adduced
heralded	adumbrated
ratified	appropriated

79. Incensed, and perhaps spooked, by the implications of the bureau's purportedly (i) \_\_\_\_\_ inquisitions, the Hollywood film director shuttered his studios, suspended production of numerous projects, and (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ with his wife to Europe.

Blank (i) Blank (ii)

suspicious	immigrated
benign	absconded
risqué	pandered

80. The relationship between the two leaders has gone from positively (i) \_\_\_\_\_ to chilly at best, not least because the recent arms scandal threatens to (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ the mutual trust that has been held on both sides for years.

Blank (i) Blank (ii)

parsimonious	bolster
reverent	erode
congenial	fester

81.O ne needn't resort to arrant (i) \_\_\_\_\_ in order to dem onstrate that one possesses the requisite degree of deference and respect for one's elders;indeed,oftentim es such blandishm ents can m ake one appear (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ and ignorant— qualities presum ably (iii) \_\_\_\_\_ w ith the original intent.

B lank (i)      B lank (ii)   B lank (iii)

flattery	artisan	apposite
officiousness	fatuous	incongruous
veracity	sardonic	daunting

82.D ebates over free w ill have alw ays focused on the extent to w hich hum ans m ay be said to be fully (i) \_\_\_\_\_ their actions.D r.W egner in his article deliberately and artfully (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ the traditional talking points of the controversy,instead asking a tangential,though possibly m ore (iii) \_\_\_\_\_,question: W hat effect does a person's belief in free w ill have on his or her w ell-being?

B lank (i)      B lank (ii)   B lank (iii)

responsible for	m itigates	fundam ental
aw are of	eschew s	ideological
based on	contradicts	flashy

83.O nce the candidate established herself as the clear frontrunner,it took but a brief interlude in the clam or for all her erstw hile (i) \_\_\_\_\_ to gather around her and to begin loudly proclaim ing their (ii) \_\_\_\_\_.It seem ed,in other w ords,to cause these new com ers not an iota of discom fort to behave in a m anner that a casual observer m ight have characterized as (iii) \_\_\_\_\_ outright hypocrisy.

B lank (i)   B lank (ii)      B lank (iii)

factotum s	reputability	tantam ount to
detractors	m agnanim ity	reciprocal w ith
zealots	fealty	hinging on

84.Som e substances toxic to hum ans induce lassitude and torpor,w hereas others incite (i) \_\_\_\_\_ or (ii) \_\_\_\_\_.

B lank (i)      B lank (ii)

convulsions	com plaints
contretem ps	retching
apathy	drow siness

85.C om m entators and com edians had a field day w ith the w idespread corruption in politics,so m uch so that one \_\_\_\_\_ defined a "gaffe" as a politician accidentally telling the truth.

w ag
apologist
diplom at

egoist
transgressor

86.The seem ingly pious m inister,know n for his (i) \_\_\_\_\_ pontifications,actually frequently indulged an unseem ly (ii) \_\_\_\_\_.

B lank (i)    B lank (ii)

lascivious	cerem ony
virtuous	vice
prudish	era

87.A m ericans w ho w ere the first to fight fascism in Spain during the Spanish C ivil W ar w ere not allow ed to join the U S A rm y later,as their initiative led to the A m erican governm ent labeling them “ \_\_\_\_\_ anti-fascists,” and thus undesirable.

violent
erroneous
prem ature
prescient
com m unist

88.Paleontologists are alw ays show n extracting dinosaur bones from pits in dusty deserts,but m ost of their research occurs in libraries,and m ost of their discoveries are \_\_\_\_\_ from tom es every bit as dusty as the aforem entioned deserts.

perused
garnished
gleaned
involved
interpreted

89.M s.Llew ellyn is know n to gently \_\_\_\_\_ students w ho don’t do their hom ew ork,but because of her generally am iable dem eanor,she refuses to punish anyone,and seldom even raises her voice.

pillory
detest
m align
penalize
chide

90.W ith so m any of A m erica’s m alls shutting dow n due to the financial crisis,there m ight soon be a significant dearth of locations in w hich teenagers can \_\_\_\_\_;if w e’re not careful,they m ight soon have to start

actually doing useful things with their time.

flirt
loaf
sneak
mature
ruminate

91. The danger of giving too many long and bombastic speeches while on the campaign trail is that a politician can come off as \_\_\_\_\_ rather than eloquent.

unscrupulous
voluble
frank
inane
glib

92. Strange to think that for the majority of the 1950's, the \_\_\_\_\_ of nuclear holocaust was a daily part of people's lives, so much so that elementary school students ran drills in which they had to dive under their desks and curl up into a ball.

specter
annihilation
brutality
detonation
arms race

93. In their popular book *Sex at Dawn*, authors Christopher Ryan and Cacilda Jethá \_\_\_\_\_ those who see paradigms for monogamy in nature, describing numerous animals and primitive peoples who have polyamorous relationships.

conspire with
block out
rail against
skitter around
pass over

94. The king's attendants insisted that he'd never made a bad decision during his entire reign, but the king ignored this \_\_\_\_\_, recognizing it as the unctuous chatter of toadies.

idleness
regalia

blather
puffery
confabulation

95.The actress was desperate to (i) \_\_\_\_\_ the part in the new Michel Gondry film .It was (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ role,with lots of onscreen time and a number of long scenes that would allow the actress,usually cast as a vapid ingénue or bombshell,to truly show her dramatic range.

Blank (i) Blank (ii)

land	a grave
ascertain	a plum
ensure	an agonistic

96.Those who believe that (i) \_\_\_\_\_ is a thing of the past should remember that women were only granted (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ in 1920,and not until 1965,with the passing of the Voting Rights Act,could African Americans feel confident that they could vote safely in US elections.

Blank (i) Blank (ii)

disenfranchisement	hegemony
chauvanism	suffrage
plutocracy	dispensation

97.Because the superintendent was a (i) \_\_\_\_\_ rather than a professional plumber,it's no surprise that he proceeded mostly by (ii) \_\_\_\_\_.Now as it particularly surprising when the new seals burst.The following week,(iii) \_\_\_\_\_ was hired to repair the superintendent's mistakes expediently.

Blank (i) Blank (ii) Blank (iii)

lummox	rote	a crack
bureaucrat	guesswork	an extortionate
layperson	numbers	a senescent

98.Some have argued that people who work in the service industry experience subtle psychological damage each time they (i) \_\_\_\_\_ their true emotions in order to put on a smile for the customer.Unfortunately,such efforts are (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ of the job,as no one wants to be served by a weepy waiter or an irate flight attendant.

Blank (i) Blank (ii)

masquerade	the apex
simulate	the conceit
mask	part and parcel

99.Unable to raise sufficient funds for his quirky independent feature,the producer was heard to curse the "philistines" and \_\_\_\_\_ the lack of support for experimental art in this country.

debase
decry
deface
delimit
defer

100. His grandmother's house was always a bedlam of porcelain figurines, collector's spoons, and other (i) \_\_\_\_\_ doodads. But it hardly would have been (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ to tell her that he thought her choice of décor was vulgar; in fact, he had to think (iii) \_\_\_\_\_, because the avaricious youth was gunning for a big birthday present from her.

Blank (i) Blank (ii) Blank (iii)

tacky	tactful	amicably
vitreous	rancorous	tactically
grizzled	doting	dupliciously

101. The captain (i) \_\_\_\_\_ (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ for as long as he could, but eventually the crew became frustrated with the small portions of mead and the dearth of plunder, and decided to take matters into their own hands.

Blank (i) Blank (ii)

dissuaded	sea change
warded off	mutiny
depreciated	putsch

102. Of course we would all like to believe that our every success is of our own manufacture, but to believe that is to neglect the (i) \_\_\_\_\_ element present in all lives, beginning with a birth lottery that assigns to some such gifts as intelligence and to others such (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ as wealth.

Blank (i) Blank (ii)

notional	encumbrances
inchoate	dispensations
aleatory	piques

103. Anne could have made a larger salary elsewhere, but such (i) \_\_\_\_\_ as ample vacation time and excellent insurance persuaded her to (ii) \_\_\_\_\_.

Blank (i) Blank (ii)

perquisites	negotiate
remuneration	abscond
disincentives	abide

104.Jackson’s supporters praised his earthy speech as evidence of his com m on touch,w hile his (i) \_\_\_\_\_  
condem ned it as (ii) \_\_\_\_\_.

B lank (i)            B lank (ii)

interlocutors	vulgar
detractors	obtuse
contem poraries	genteel

105.Econom ists have developed such sophisticated and (i) \_\_\_\_\_ m athem atical tools for m  
odeling hum an behavior that other social scientists often deploy those tools to m odel and help  
(ii) \_\_\_\_\_ even decisions that have no obvious econom ic consequences.

B lank (i)    B lank (ii)

eclectic	interpolate
populist	replicate
versatile	explicate

106.Patients w ho stop taking antibiotics w hen sym ptom s subside contribute to the evolution of drug-resistant  
strains, because an incom plete course of treatm ent spares the m ost \_\_\_\_\_ bacteria.

w idespread
im m ature
robust
benignant
notorious

107.C hildren w ho are recognized as preternaturally intelligent often go on to fulfill their early prom  
ise,contrary to the stereotype of m aladjusted \_\_\_\_\_ w asting their gifts.

prodigies
crackpots
m isanthropes
dynam os
juveniles

108.Freud’s structural m odel of the psyche should be understood as (i) \_\_\_\_\_ device,useful for  
inciting and guiding discovery,rather than as an attem pt to (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ physical relationships  
am ong parts of the hum an brain.

B lank (i)            B lank (ii)

a heuristic	dictate
a herm eneutic	am eliorate

an allegorical	represent
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109.The silent-film pioneer H arold Lloyd m ade a virtue of the (i) \_\_\_\_\_ lim its of his day,playing m en so (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ it w as easy to im agine it w as the character rather than the m edium w ho lacked a voice.

B lank (i)      B lank (ii)

artistic	avant-garde
com m ercial	diffident
technical	reluctant

110.A fter the séance ended,the participants w ere of tw o m inds as to w hether the psychic had \_\_\_\_\_ a spirit,but everyone had felt the presence of som ething new in the room .

convoked
evoked
elicited
excogitated
coalesced

111.W hen he joked about his shortcom ings as a husband,his hum or grew too (i) \_\_\_\_\_ for our com fort, becom ing so bitter and ironic that w e found ourselves (ii) \_\_\_\_\_.

B lank (i)      B lank (ii)

frantic	disquieted
m ordant	antipathetic
choleric	sanguine

112.C hurchill conceded that R ussia,(i) \_\_\_\_\_ an ally of France and G reat B ritain,w as in fact (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ to their security,but argued that R ussian national interest w ould com pel it to m ake (iii) \_\_\_\_\_ w ith those countries.

B lank (i)      B lank (ii)      B lank (iii)

steadfastly	pledged	com m on cause
nom inally	indifferent	rack and ruin
sporadically	im m une	vim and vigor

113.Just as Philip K .D ick’s acclaim ed science-fiction show s his gift for dystopian fantasy,so too his early efforts at m ainstream novels (i) \_\_\_\_\_ his ability to represent the m ore (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ w orld.

B lank (i)      B lank (ii)

attest to	ebullient
belie	quotidian



gainsay	fantastical
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114. Those who knew the editor as a (i) \_\_\_\_\_ and uncommunicative young man are surprised to find him so vocally dogmatic in his (ii) \_\_\_\_\_, though perhaps it is precisely because he has always been so slow to think that he has taken to the security of his (iii) \_\_\_\_\_ positions, which at least allow him to be quick to judge.

Blank (i)      Blank (ii)      Blank (iii)

costive	dotage	arbitrary
homely	jouissance	doctrinaire
cynical	quiescence	picayune

115. Always chary of doling out criticism deemed too \_\_\_\_\_, the pundit generally adhered to a more diplomatic approach.

dull
acerbic
muted
indistinct
tactful

116. Unfortunately for the young hire, the amiable, gregarious air of his boss during the initial interview belied a vastly more \_\_\_\_\_ style on the job, a fact which he learned to his chagrin within the first few days of employment.

draconian
friendly
fatuous
disconcerting
nonplussed

117. (i) \_\_\_\_\_ comprehension of the character of Italian wine is impeded not only by labyrinthine complexities of vineyards and varieties, but also by fluctuations in environmental conditions from year to year, which render even the most reliable vintages subject to (ii) \_\_\_\_\_.

Blank (i)                      Blank (ii)

An exhaustive	efficient taxonomy
A futile	remarkable variance
An irredeemable	mitigating circumstances

118. Added to the (i) \_\_\_\_\_ with which the clerk seems to treat his clients is what appears to be a more general lack of respect for his office; he seems to treat the whole thing as if it were some grand (ii) \_\_\_\_\_.

B lank (i) B lank (ii)

casual nonchalance	gesture
profound meticulousness	farce
idle envy	tirade

119.Proponents of climate change theory have lamented the steady decrease in the \_\_\_\_\_ of Greenland;they fear that the melting ice will raise sea levels around the world,perhaps flooding coastal cities and much of Florida.

flukes
cads
dirges
floes
fibs

120.The more deeply one delves into the relevant literature,the more apparent it becomes that psychoanalysis is a practice (i) \_\_\_\_\_.Even tenets that some might deem (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ to the general philosophy,such as the notion that the human psyche is primarily governed by conflicting desires and is formed in large part by early childhood experiences,are by no means accepted as gospel,even by some of its most (iii) \_\_\_\_\_.

B lank (i) B lank (ii) B lank (iii)

teeming with ridicule	critical	esteemed beneficiaries
devoid of substance	immaterial	quarrelsome factions
rife with contention	anathema	seasoned practitioners

121.The pair's apparent antagonism could easily be written off as (i) \_\_\_\_\_ pure and simple,but further scrutiny should render (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ the fact that the rivalry also confers a fair amount of (iii) \_\_\_\_\_,insofar as it provides each an opportunity to derive inspiration and motivation from the other.

B lank (i) B lank (ii) B lank (iii)

dissimulation	useless	worthless pride
antipathy	patent	mutual benefit
flagrancy	spurious	tacit disagreement

122.In this day and age,side show barkers,competing with the unfathomable number of spectacular oddities daily displayed on the internet for free,must increasingly lard their pitches with flights of fancy and soaring \_\_\_\_\_, arching far beyond reality,to fill the seats in their arcades.

tit-for-tat
parables
conundrums
innuendos
hyperboles

123.(i) \_\_\_\_\_ the law had little im pact,but it w as (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ by subsequent legislation providing funding and enforcem ent.

B lank (i)      B lank (ii)

Justifiably	rendered m oot
U nbelievably	given teeth
Initially	kept at bay

124.Evoking both horror and joy in its audience in equal m easure,the opera becam e an instant classic of \_\_\_\_\_ technique.

m acabre
figurative
articulate
contrapuntal
contrived

125.The fam ous N otre D am e cathedral in Paris took alm ost tw o hundred years to com plete;this im m ense architectural effort included the first notable use of a flying \_\_\_\_\_,but this renow ned feature w as not part of the original design and only em ployed w hen the w alls form ing the nave began to crum ble and needed additional support.

ballast
albatross
hallm ark
buttress
tradem ark

126.W hile no single em pirical investigation can ever conclusively prove the (i) \_\_\_\_\_ of a theory,the fact that our data are (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ findings from over a dozen independent labs w orldw ide bodes w ell for our fram ew ork’s resilience.

B lank (i)      B lank (ii)

rationality	consistent w ith
veracity	founded on
candor	antithetical to

127.A full account of the com plexities of sleep,sought after by scientists,philosophers,and m ystics for m illennia, continues to elude us.That w e are still so ignorant about a topic so (i) \_\_\_\_\_ to our daily lives is at once fascinating and (ii) \_\_\_\_\_.

B lank (i)      B lank (ii)

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mysterious	deeply humbling
obscure	fully impenetrable
pertinent	totally blatant

128. Mozart's brief life exemplified a discrepancy between fame and means: as his musical star (i) \_\_\_\_\_ beyond measure, his income (ii) \_\_\_\_\_.

Blank (i) Blank (ii)

abated	grew exponentially
waxed	remained exorbitant
dwindled	barely stirred

129. Though some judges have found in the Third Amendment to the U.S. Constitution a (i) \_\_\_\_\_ for a right to privacy, it was drafted primarily to appease opponents of the Constitution, and was particularly a (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ to those antifederalists who sought to prevent the new state from maintaining a standing army. Since Article 1, section 8 of the Constitution explicitly grants to Congress the power to raise and maintain an army, the Third Amendment was largely (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ before it was written.

Blank (i) Blank (ii) Blank (iii)

detriment	boon	daft
basis	sop	gauche
counterargument	bolster	moot

130. Finally, after refusing for a decade, the family patriarch, weakened by age and infirmity, surrendered to the impassioned pleas of his avaricious nieces, and gave his \_\_\_\_\_ to the risky investment stratagem.

assent
ascent
dissent
descent
asseveration

131. Even thrill-seeking visitors to amusement parks will avoid those attractions with a reputation for real (i) \_\_\_\_\_, like those at the now-shuttered Action Park. These patrons want not danger but its (ii) \_\_\_\_\_, a ride that (iii) \_\_\_\_\_ but is in fact perfectly safe.

Blank (i) Blank (ii) Blank (iii)

peril	complement	satisfies
titillation	simulacrum	mollifies
lavishness	abettor	terrifies

132. Desktop publishing allows (i) \_\_\_\_\_ to do for themselves the work once reserved for professionals whose (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ or other training developed design skills along with narrow technical mastery.

B lank (i)    B lank (ii)

dilettantes	sensibility
artisans	acumen
idealogues	apprenticeship

133. In order to return to the castle, the single surviving knight had to somehow get past redoubtable warriors who threatened to \_\_\_\_\_ him limb from limb.

garner
garnish
garland
rend
render

134. The American system of government is wonderfully responsive to crisis, but seemingly (i) \_\_\_\_\_ to perennial troubles, limping along with (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ solutions to (iii) \_\_\_\_\_ problems.

B lank (i)    B lank (ii)    B lank (iii)

empathetic	faddish	coarse
obliging	tendentious	chronic
indifferent	makeshift	acute

135. If impact on one's contemporaries is the test of (i) \_\_\_\_\_, Flann O'Brien's *The Third Policeman* cannot be said to be among the most significant postmodern novels, as it went unpublished and unread for twenty-seven years. The literary theorist Keith Hopper, though, appeals to standards other than (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ when he argues persuasively that *The Third Policeman* is among the most important of early postmodern works, not least because of its deep subversion of both enlightenment and modern traditions in literature.

B lank (i)    B lank (ii)

eminence	currency
modishness	influence
conversance	dissolution

136. One liberal activist asserts that politicians' tendency to (i) \_\_\_\_\_ talk of class warfare stems largely from a communal state of denial, a refusal to accept that we already occupy a highly (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ society.

B lank (i)    B lank (ii)

denigrate	socialized
besmirch	balkanized
declare	politicized

137. If anthropologists reveal too much of their culture to the subjects of their (i) \_\_\_\_\_, they risk the

corruption of the sometimes fragile societies they seek to understand,as well as other (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ that may appear incongruous with their task.

Blank (i)   Blank (ii)

objectivity	sequelae
society	inconsistencies
scrutiny	paradoxes

138. There is little agreement among specialists about whether the Second Amendment provides \_\_\_\_\_ guarantee of a right to bear arms for private citizens, or whether it was instead meant to allow the populace to protect itself in lieu of a military.

an earnest
an amended
a questionable
a defeasible
an ironclad

139. Free speech is often taken by the general population to be a sacred guarantee of the right to dissent, but this high valuation may be only (i) \_\_\_\_\_ in a society where any divergence from the general opinion leaves one labeled (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ or even an outcast.

Blank (i)   Blank (ii)

a nostrum	an assassin
a catalyst	a nuisance
an adjuvant	a miser

140. Faced with \_\_\_\_\_ job market, many young people are returning to graduate school rather than attempting to compete for the few available jobs.

am yopic
an anemic
abotched
atitular
afissile

141. Nora Ephron's 1989 film, *When Harry Met Sally*, was more than a hit movie— for a generation, it was a cultural \_\_\_\_\_ regarding the often fraught relations between men and women.

rudder
bolster
touchstone

stanchion

cornerstone

# Text Completions Answers

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1. **Apportioned.** You begin by learning about football, which is by far the *most popular sport in Europe*. The word *whereas* then creates a contrast, so you need American fans to be evenly *split* between their many sports. *Measured* is close, but doesn't quite divide things up the way you need it to. *Apportioned* means "divided and allocated."

2. **Delusion.** The second half of the sentence tells you that it would take a "miracle" for a person to get to another solar system. In other words, it's more or less *impossible*. Both *demeritis* and *hysteria* are too negative and extreme. *Delusion*, meaning "a belief that is maintained despite being contradicted by reality," is the best fit.

3. **Convinced, dismissed.** "Peculiarly enough" is the clue that indicates that the blanks oppose each other, and *best English language play* right is the clue that tells you that the first blank must be positive, so the second blank must be negative. *Convinced* is the only positive word choice for the first blank. In the second blank, *demoralized* is much too strong an attitude to direct towards someone for lacking education; *dismissed* is a more appropriate word.

4. **Undermine, unchallenged.** The first word of the sentence tells you that the two parts of the sentence will oppose each other. The second suggests that the president felt that the professor's comments couldn't be allowed to stand as they were, so they could not go *unchallenged*. If the university challenges a faculty member, however, this tends to subvert or *undermine* the faculty member's authority, which is what you need for the first blank. Note that, if you picked *defend* for the first blank, you would need a word like *undefended* in the second blank — none of the choices for the second blank match *undefended*.

5. **Contortion, swindle, unconscionable.** It's easiest to start this sentence with the second blank, where record labels are described as *demanding indefensibly large percentages of [artists'] profits*. This means the second blank should be *swindle*. The third blank then uses the word *equally*, implying that downloading a song illegally is also a kind of *swindle*. Both *justifiable* and *scrupulous* are positive words, so you need *unconscionable*, meaning "not right or reasonable." Now you can return to the first blank. You know that the prompt as a whole argues that downloading music is bad, so "in order to defend" it, one must be slightly dishonest. *Probity* and *leniency* are both good things. You want *contortion*, meaning "twisting or bending out of something's normal shape."

6. **Cited, correct, tangential.** You can start with the first blank here, where a fact about life expectancy relates to the world improving with time. Clearly this would be *true* if life expectancies have increased with time, so you can simply use *cited* in the first blank. The second blank, however, says that this statistic is slightly misleading if you consider a new fact (i.e., that most children died in childbirth). This means you need to *correct* for the new piece of information. The final sentence seems a bit off-topic (suddenly you're talking about height, when you had been talking about life expectancy), so you should use the word *tangential* to set it off. Note that *sidereal* doesn't have anything to do with being "on the side" — it means "related to the stars."

7. **Prescient.** The blank must agree with the clue that the possibility is remote. Note that *prescient* is the opposite of what you want — because the prediction about the future was entirely wrong, it did not sound *prescient*.

8. **Enduring.** The blank must agree with *strongly influenced legal codes well into the 20th century*; thus, the code of law is *enduring*. Note that incorrect choice *fleeting* is exactly the opposite of the intended meaning.



9. **Superstitious.** The pivot word *because* indicates that the blank will agree with the (interesting but meaningless) pattern that *every president elected in a year ending in zero had died in office*. Don't fall for traps like *conservative* (which would only be attractive if you were using outside information).

10. **Amusing, caustic.** The clue "usual" means that the two blanks must match "humorous but acerbic" — and in order.

11. **Circle.** The clue "in turn" leads to the correct answer. Incorrect answers *irony* and *comedy* add an idea — humor — that was not indicated by the sentence.

12. **A breast of.** The word *although* gives you a clue that what the professor is doing is unusual or not required of a retired person. "Takes pains" also tells you that what she is doing is difficult. To keep *abreast of* a topic is to remain current.

13. **Proponent, catalyst.** You know that the woman in this sentence *finally got the bill onto the legislative agenda*, so she is definitely an advocate, or *proponent*, of the legislation. A *catalyst* — a term adopted from chemistry — is someone who creates change.

14. **Trumpet, taciturn.** You know that Jeremy is successful, but it takes his family a long time to "discover" his accomplishments. Thus, Jeremy does not brag — or even report the facts! To  *trumpet* is to "talk loudly or report something to everyone." In the second blank, only *taciturn* (quiet) works. Don't be fooled by *prodigal*, which occurs in the expression "prodigal son," but actually means "wasteful." (The original *prodigal son* from the Bible ungratefully wasted his inheritance.)

15. **Dumbfounded, turbid.** In the first blank, you need a word like *amazed*. *Dumbfounded* is the only match. *Turbid* which is related to *turbulent*, is the right word to describe choppy waters in which something could easily be lost. (*Turgid* means "stiff" and *tepid* means "lukewarm.")

16. **Emblematic of, pragmatic, posit.** You learn at the end of the sentence that Hursthouse puts forth the same view as many other virtue ethicists. So in the first blank, you want something like *representative of*. The only match is *emblematic of*. You then learn that Hursthouse thinks ethics is "neither situational nor utilitarian" — the next part of the sentence will have a first part that matches up with *situational*, and a second part that matches up with *utilitarian*, (GRE sentences often use a pattern of mentioning two things, and then giving more information about those two things *in the same order*.) *Base one's judgments on subjective concerns* refers back to a *situational* approach to ethics, and a \_\_\_\_\_ *weighing of pain and pleasure* refers back to a *utilitarian* (or *practical*) approach. Thus, *pragmatic*, which means "practical," matches. Finally, critics would definitely *agree* with the idea that virtue ethicists "seek to enshrine their own prejudices," so in the third blank, you just need a word like *say* or *claim*. *Posit* is the only match.

17. **Roundly, panned.** Wow, what a terrible movie! Not a single reviewer could think of *one* nice thing to say? You need two words that mean something like "unanimously criticized" or "100% disliked." *Roundly* means "emphatically," or "so thoroughly as to leave no doubt." *Panned* means "reviewed negatively" and is almost always used to refer to plays, movies, etc., so the word is a perfect match here.

18. **Modestly, sparingly, do nothing to excess.** The only clue you have is that Socrates advocated *a life of moderation*, so you need words that mean *moderately* in both the first and second blanks, and a phrase that means "live moderately" in the third blank.

19. **Inundated.** Upon reading this sentence, you might have filled in something like "went to" in the blank. One good

clue is that the carpetbaggers needed suitcases, so they were probably traveling. Process of elimination works well here — *vanquished*, *blacklisted*, *boycotted*, and *berated* all add ideas not indicated by the sentence. Only *inundated* (flooded, overwhelmed) makes sense.

20. **Coda.** You need a word that means something like a *bad ending*. A *coda* is an ending that sums up what came before, which, in this case, was pretty bad. A *ram page* is bad but does not fit grammatically before “to,” nor does it correctly describe an earthquake — rather, murderers or mobs go on *ram pages*.

21. **Presciently, simpatico.** *Presciently* means “seeing into the future,” or “as though seeing into the future.” *Simpatico* matches the idea of being “of one mind.”

22. **Inured to.** *Casting a blind eye* to suffering means that these people ignore or pretend not to see the suffering. Thus, they are *inured to* suffering — they are hardened and desensitized as a result of seeing so much of it. Trap answer *exempted* would mean that the people described are no longer personally subject to the suffering. You don’t know that, of course. You only have the clue that the people *cast a blind eye*, or *ignore* suffering. Because they *ignore* suffering, they also wouldn’t be *maudlin* or *effusive*, which are about expressing strong feelings.

23. **Coalesced.** You need a word that means *came together*. *Coalesced* matches perfectly. *Agglomerated* is a bit of a trap — to *agglomerate* is to collect or form into a mass or group. Since the people were already in a group, the word is inappropriate (*agglomerate* is also used more for things than for people).

24. **Anachronisms.** The director inserted some *things in the wrong time period*, or *anachronisms*.

25. **Enigma.** Since no one has been able to decode the tablet, you need a word that means “mystery.”

26. **Rail against, moralists, utilitarians.** You know from the definition provided of progressive taxation that those who “feel it unjust” that the “most industrious” are “penalized” would definitely be against progressive taxation, so *rail against* matches in the first blank. The word *unjust* is a good clue that *moralists* matches in the second blank (the other two words make no sense — *autodidacts* are people who teach themselves and *recidivists* are people who return to committing crimes). In the third blank, you need another group of people who are against progressive taxation but who are different from the *moralists* — in this case, because they are making a *practical* argument, not a moral one. Only *utilitarians* matches.

27. **Inform.** The poet’s childhood memories *color*, or influence, her work. You need a similar word for how war *influences* her poetry. *Inform* — to give substance, character, or distinction to — can be used in this way.

28. **Erroneously, unbeknownst.** Since the peanut is not really a nut (it is a legume), *erroneously* (incorrectly) matches in the first blank. *Unbeknownst to* means “unknown by.”

29. **Tremulous, chary of.** All of the clues in the sentence are about being scared, so *tremulous* matches best in the first blank. You know that the child finds diving “even more frightening” than water in general, so *chary of* (suspicious or slightly scared of), a less extreme version of *frightening*, fits in the second blank.

30. **Sentries, fecund, progeny.** You are told that soldier ants *guard the colony and supply it with food, thus acting as both \_\_\_\_\_ and laborers*. In this sentence pattern, the first blank (*sentries*, or “guards”) matches up with “guard the colony” and “laborers” matches up with “supply it with food.” You know that the queen can *continually populate the colony*, so *fecund* (fertile) goes in the second blank and *progeny* (offspring) goes in the third.

31. **Ephemeral, heralded.** Since the government lasted only about two months, it was *ephemeral*, or “short-lived.” Despite this, it was *regarded*, or *celebrated*, as the emergence of a powerful working class: only *heralded* matches.

32. **Desuetude, overrun.** *Desuetude* means “disuse,” although the word is usually used in a legal context (a law that has not been enforced in a very long time may fall into *desuetude* and in some legal codes be no longer valid). *Overrun* matches the idea of having many *vermin* (rats and other undesirable animals). Don’t fall for trap answer *hampered* — the house couldn’t be *hampered* because it wasn’t trying to accomplish anything.

33. **Complaisant, artful.** You know from the sentence that the boss’s son is “pleasant” but that he is not a good person to bargain on behalf of the company. In the first blank, *complaisant* means “tractable, manageable” and in the second, *artful* means “crafty, cunning, shrewd” — qualities important for bargaining.

34. **Sanguine, peccadilloes.** You know that the man’s personality is pleasing — so pleasing that it’s *hard to be bothered by* something in his past. So, the first word should match *pleasing* and the second should be something negative that others might overlook. *Sanguine* means “cheerful and optimistic.” (Note that *high-handed* might sound positive, but actually means “tactlessly overbearing.”) *Peccadilloes* are minor faults or sins — small enough that they might be overlooked if the person has other virtues.

35. **A risible.** The substitute teacher is speaking French in the wrong room and confusing everyone? Hilarious! *Risible* means “laughable” and is the only choice that makes any sense here. Note that *arch* can mean “mischievous, playful, roguish,” but is not appropriate here because the French teacher did this “accidentally.”

36. **Verdant, castigated.** You know that the employee is young and makes mistakes. *Verdant* means either “green and lush” (like a forest), or “new and inexperienced” (the use of “green” as a metaphor, as in, “She’s still green at her job.”) Since the mistake was so expensive, it makes sense that the employee would be *castigated*, or severely criticized. (He wouldn’t be *deposed* — that word is for kings, dictators, etc., forced out of power.)

37. **Facile.** The contestant’s suggestion is rather childish; you also have the word *naively* as a clue. *Facile* matches well, and has the sense of “superficial; so simple it’s actually stupid.” Note that *convoluted* often describes an unconvincing argument, but a complicated one — this choice does not match the clue “naively.”

38. **Convivial.** Extroverts are sociable, outgoing, etc. Only *convivial* matches.

39. **Motley, even, sole.** This question is an excellent lesson in the principle, “Don’t add anything to your reading of the sentence that wasn’t there already.” What were you told? Just that the first short story collection had many diverse voices, and the second collection has “a \_\_\_\_\_ narrator” — in other words, just one speaker. Therefore, you *don’t* know that the stories or narrator are *insightful, facetious, lonely, or disingenuous*.

40. **Novel.** The correct answer must match the clue “new” and the structure that contrasts the blank with “time-honored.”

41. **Hysterics.** The blank must contrast “maintain her composure.” Note that while, in casual speech, many people use *hysterical* to mean “funny,” that is a metaphorical usage — *hysterical* actually relates to being very upset. The clue “bereaved” eliminates the incorrect pair of *laughter* and *mirth*. (The wrong answer *flames* might have caused you to burst into laughter or mirth, though.)

42. **Deification, garlands.** The straightforward structure and positive spin indicate positive choices for both blanks. Additionally, the clues “virtual” and “altar” suggest that the answers will be metaphorical rather than literal, thus eliminating *adoration*. Both the incorrect answers for the second blank are negative.

43. **Artifices.** The pivot means the answer must be in contrast to the clue, “truth.” Trap answers *palettes* and *aesthetics* are related to painting, but don’t match the meaning of the blank.

44. **Pedantry.** The correct answer should parallel “dogmatic” and match the negative spin of *enervates rather than inspires*. Only *pedantry* (being arrogant in relation to learning) and *parsimony* (stinginess) are negative, and only *pedantry* fits the idea of an uninspiring professor.

45. **Minutiae.** The correct answer must reflect the clue, “petty,” and oppose the idea of “lofty goals.” Lincoln felt that McClellan paid so much attention to details that he ignored the big picture.

46. **Appealing shyness, enthralled.** As is often the case, the second blank is easier; given the structure, it must match the clue “captivating” in meaning and spin. The first blank must parallel “hesitancy and understatement” and also have a positive spin.

47. **Volatile, figuratively unstrung, caned.** While the stimulus is long and a little convoluted, all three blanks agree with the clue and structure given by *to the point of violence*. Note that *literally insane* is too strong, due to the inclusion of *literally*. The word *caned* here really does mean “beat with a cane.”

48. **Dissipation, profligate.** “Ironically” is a good clue here — the commentator condemned a quality that he himself actually possessed! Both words should be negative, similar in meaning, and matching the idea of “bankruptcy.” *Dissipation* and *profligate* are both related to wastefulness or irresponsible living.

49. **Regression, dogmatism, constructing a hierarchy.** The first blank must contrast “standing alone” and complement the clue “linear.” The second blank contrasts “free spirit.” Since Nietzsche “rails against” the word in the second blank, you would also expect that word to be negative. *Dogmatism* matches perfectly. For the third blank, the dash and the use of “such” indicate that your choice must match the idea of “ordering.” A *hierarchy* is “a well-defined ordering of different levels or ranks.”

50. **Informed.** The clue “just as” tells you that the second part of the sentence will need to mirror the first part. Thus, the blank must match the meaning of *provided with a model*. *Informed* can be used in this way. Don’t be tricked by *duplicate* (to provide a model isn’t to make an exact copy) or *foresaw* (the remnants of Roman culture didn’t tell the future).

51. **Enhances.** You simply need a word here that means “helps.” Don’t fall for *ensures*, which is too extreme. Having a head that can measure spaces is cool, but hardly guarantees the success of a species.

52. **Anonymous.** You are told that politicians lie so much that *candor (truth) is an \_\_\_\_\_*. You need a word that means “exception” or “something unusual.”

53. **Eccentricity, trenchant.** The multiple negatives — “no other,” “but,” “more than” — make the first blank tricky. Fortunately, this blank follows “no other contemporary novelists whose works resemble [his].” Thus, you need a word that means something like “uniqueness.” In the second sentence, Pynchon’s work is being contrasted with “lightweight banter.” *Trenchant* conveys that Pynchon’s work is serious and cutting.

54. **Berserk, recede.** Transferring power to “less temperate” forces would cause chaos. You also have the clue at the end — a “more peaceful” period comes later. So you need a pretty extreme opposite of “peaceful” in the first blank. Only *berserk* works. In the second sentence, excesses *recede* (reduce, pull back), allowing a more peaceful phase.
55. **Perilous.** The correct answer must match “dangerous.” Note: *suicidal* is too extreme and not indicated by the sentence. (Even if you know what eventually happened to the Donner party, don’t use outside information!)
56. **Trundled.** The clue “slowly” points to the correct answer — only *trundled* can describe a slow movement from a car. *Creeped* describes a fast, out-of-control movement, and *tarried* describes a person lingering.
57. **Sangfroid, mercurial.** A tricky structure — while the second blank is opposite of the clue “equilibrium” (because of the “however”), the first blank should actually have the same meaning as *equilibrium*.
58. **Opposed, eremitic.** The pivot word *yet* means that the first blank will oppose “solitary,” and the second will agree with it. While the correct answers are extremely difficult words, all of the wrong answers are pretty standard GRE vocabulary words, so you should be able to answer this one by process of elimination.
59. **Bleated, oligarchy, turpitude.** “Piteously” is the clue for the first blank. *Bleated* is used metaphorically here — to *bleat* is to make the weak, wailing cry of a sheep, goat, or calf. Basically, saying that someone is bleating is calling his complaints pathetic, which matches with the clue “piteously,” as well as the later “bemoan.” The part of the sentence after the semicolon matches the first part in structure — the second blank parallels “wealthy business leaders,” and the third mirrors “corrupt the youth” (*turpitude* is “depravity or immorality”).
60. **A stopgap, paragon, perpetuity.** The implication of the phrase *a more permanent solution* is that the original building was not permanent: it was a *stopgap*, or a “temporary fix.” To “canonize” something literally means to “declare to be a saint,” but in its figurative sense, it means to “hold up as an exemplar,” or as a *paragon*. The third blank gets its clue from “originally,” indicating that you are looking for an opposite of “transient.”
61. **Amity, mores.** The pivot word *though* tells you that the negotiation did not actually proceed smoothly. The first blank comes after “appearance of,” which indicates fake behavior. The word *disingenuous* backs up that meaning. You need something positive — the parties are showing false *amity*, or friendliness, out of a “superficial” adherence to customs or rules — *mores*.
62. **Debauchment, derogated from.** Our clue is the author’s “dissolution” — he may have turned to drugs, promiscuity, crime, or just letting his life fall apart. *Libertinous* has a similar meaning, as does the correct word *debauchment*. In the second blank, you want something negative (to contrast with the opinion of the “others” who *felt that his dissolution added a certain glamor to his biography*).
63. **Didactic.** The children’s story ended with a moral — “always be honest.” The word *didactic* can mean “morally instructive” or just “instructive” — this book is a *didactic* work.
64. **Protean, quixotic.** In the first blank, you need an idea that contrasts with “concrete proposal.” *Protean* matches nicely. For the second blank, you need a word that also represents the idea of *not* being concrete, as well as the idea of being *unlikely to ever come to fruition*. *Quixotic* matches perfectly. Note that *pragmatic* is the exact opposite; you have no idea whether the idea is *unorthodox*.

**65. A n arcadian, hinterland, spartan.** A *refuge* is positive; you also have the clue “quiet and rural.” *Arcadian* conveys a positive view of rural life. In contrast, *hinterland* conveys the idea of a *backwater* or undesirable, far-out place. In the third blank, only *spartan* can be negative.

**66. N o-holds-barred, storied.** You are told that the biography is gripping, but not appropriate for young people. So, it’s exciting — and probably full of sex, violence, or both. *No-holds-barred* and *storied* are the only choices that could even remotely match — surely the biography isn’t pretending to be naive (*faux-naïf*) or unwilling to change (*dyed-in-the-wool*), and the “life” isn’t immature (*callow*) or stalled (*stonewalled*).

**67. R egressive, auxiliary.** Given the lengthy explanation of the club’s history, the elderly male member’s suggestion was “backward,” or “hopelessly old-fashioned.” Only *regressive* matches. In the second blank, you want something that reflects the idea *play bridge and drink tea without having to worry about serious issues*. *Auxiliary* has this sense of “secondary” or “on the side.”

**68. A deft, w het.** Due to the “although,” you can infer that the first blank must be something positive — only *deft* works. In the second blank, *w het* means “stimulate.” *Tout* is a bit of a trap — the professor could *tout* the historical figure as a fun thing to learn about, but he can’t *tout* someone’s interest.

**69. In cahoots, abetting.** The *Though* at the beginning of the sentence tells you that the second part of the sentence will oppose the idea of the big firm (the “industry leader”) being punished while the small firm gets away with something. Indeed, the small firm is working with the larger one to do wrong — it is *in cahoots*. In the second blank, you need a word that means “complicit in” or “helping (in a bad way).” Only *abetting* works. Watch out for the trap answer *colluding*. This word does mean to cooperate in order to commit a wrong, but doesn’t fit for grammatical reasons — you can’t *collude* plans. Rather, you collude *with* X to do Y (*collude with a competitor to raise prices*).

**70. D isinterested.** You need a word that means *unbiased* (a good quality for a debate judge or moderator). *Disinterested* does not mean *uninterested* — rather, it means not having a “personal interest” in the topic, and therefore being unbiased.

**71. F ulmination, aspersion, m uckraking.** *It was difficult to tell whether his tirade in fact had force of fact* means that it was difficult to tell whether someone’s angry speech (*fulmination*) was actually true. It is hard to tell whether his speech is “motivated by malice” (that is, “malicious lies,” or *aspersion*) or “reportorial” information (*muuckraking* “exposing corruption”) that should actually be listened to. Note that *calumny* is similar to *aspersion* and cannot work in the third blank — while the second blank describes negative speech meant to cause harm to others, the third blank describes negative speech that exposes the truth.

**72. A gog, indelicate.** The sentence has two good clues — the grandparents value *seemliness*, the state of being proper and appropriate. The woman’s behavior is *incorrigible* (resistant to correction), which definitely has a bad connotation.

**73. R isible.** The clue phrase here is “exaggerated hilarity,” letting you know that the veteran thought the situation was funny or amusing. (*Superannuated* tells you that he was extremely old, thus exaggerating the impact of a *lifetime of injustice*. *Risible*, which means “laughable,” is most appropriate.

**74. G roaning.** You might feel stuck if the idiom *groan under the strain* doesn’t ring familiar to you. But process of elimination will still work here: none of the other words make sense in this context.

**75. A n effete.** The clue *despite their dim inutive stature* means that the second part of the sentence needs to go

against what one might think about physically smiling at people; the clue *many would all-too-happily allow minor umbrage to escalate to barroom brawl* confirms that these jockeys are a contentious bunch. Because of the expression “far from” before the blank, you need a word that expresses what the jockeys are *not*. The word *effete* means “pretentious or refined, verging on whimsy and ineffectual.”

**76. Belies.** The phrase *apparent simplicity* and *dizzying number of hours* indicate that you are searching for a contrast word, specifically one indicating that there is more to coffee than meets the eye. *Belies*, one meaning of which is “to be at odds with,” is most appropriate here.

**77. Unkempt, surprisingly deliberate.** The tricky blank structure asks what is ultimately a not-so-tricky word relationship: that of opposites. Clues for this relationship can be found in the words *notwithstanding* and *if*. Essentially, the right answers will be words that mean, first, “cluttered,” and second, “ordered.”

**78. Heralded, appropriated.** The phrase “equally public” gives you a clue that the legislator’s approval was also highly publicized, or *heralded*. *Ratified*, which means “officially approved,” would be redundant in this context. For the second blank, you aren’t given much of a clue about what the meaning should be. When this happens, only one answer choice will make sense (and usually that correct choice won’t add much to the sentence), while the other, incorrect answer choices will drastically change the meaning. Here, *appropriated*, which means “allocated” or “assigned,” fits nicely and doesn’t add any unintended meaning. Neither *adduced*, which means “cited as evidence,” nor *adumbrated*, which means “reported in an outline,” is fitting.

**79. Benign, absconded.** The first blank hinges on the meaning of the word *purport*, which means to “pretend to be,” or to “masquerade as.” The sentence implies that the bureau is pretending to be harmless, or *benign*. For the second blank, you are looking for a word that means to “leave hurriedly”; *absconded* fits. Notice that *immigrated*, though close in meaning, isn’t quite right because it means to “arrive at” a country or region rather than to “leave from” it. *Pandered*, which means “indulged another’s desire,” is not appropriate in this sentence.

**80. Congenial, erode.** When a relationship goes from something to “chilly at best,” you can surmise that the relationship used to be warm or cordial: *congenial* fits best here. Knowing that the relationship has devolved allows you to turn to the second blank and determine that there has been an undermining, or an *eroding*, of “mutual trust.”

**81. Flattery, fatuous, incongruous.** You need to go all the way to “blandishments,” a word which denotes *flattery*, to find the clue for the first blank. *Officiousness*, which is the quality of being “annoyingly, domineeringly assertive,” has close to an opposite meaning. The second blank is given away by *ignorant*: it indicates you are looking for a word that carries a meaning of “silly or foolish,” or *fatuous*. The third blank requires a word that means “contrary to” or “at odds with” — *incongruous*. Don’t be confused by *apposite*, which means “appropriate” or “fitting.”

**82. Responsible for, eschew, fundamental.** Your first clue is “free will.” One can only be *responsible for* the things one decides, or freely wills, to do. For the second blank, the word *instead*, even though it occurs later in the sentence, implies that Dr. Wegner is *avoiding* the traditional talking points of the controversy, or *eschewing* them. The word *though* indicates that the third blank contrasts with the word *tangential*. *Fundamental* is thus the most appropriate answer.

**83. Detractors, fealty, tantamount to.** *Erstwhile* means “past” or “former,” indicating that those who are now gathering around the candidate were once doing something different — that is, criticizing, or *detracting*. They are gathering around her proclaiming their “loyalty,” or *fealty*, in a way that is deeply inconsistent with their past actions. *Tantamount to*, which means “much as the same as” or “equivalent to,” is best here.

84. **C onvulsions,retching.** The two blanks contrast “lassitude and torpor” because of the pivot word *whereas*. Additionally, the word *incite* indicates that the blanks will contain words that are active rather than passive. Incorrect choices *apathy* and *drowsiness* are somewhat similar to “lassitude and torpor” and are therefore the opposite of what you want.

85. **W ag.** The sentence concerns “com mentators and comedians.” Since defining a *gaffe* (a mistake) as a politician accidentally telling the truth is meant to be funny, you need a meaning closer to *com edian*. A *w ag* is a joker, although not necessarily a professional one.

86. **V irtuous,vice.** The first blank must mirror “pious.” The pivot words *seem ingly* and *actually* indicate that the second blank contrasts “pious” — a *vice* is a very bad habit.

87. **P rem ature.** The clues are “first” and “initiative.” You don’t know if these fighters were violent or erroneous — avoid opinions or outside knowledge.

88. **G leaned.** You’re told that paleontologists do research in libraries, so their discoveries must *com e* from tomes (i.e., books). *G leaned* means “extracted from various sources.” *Perused* is the act of reading — you can *peruse* a book, but you cannot *peruse* a discovery from a book.

89. **C hide.** The adverb *gently* is important here, because it’s impossible to “gently” *detest* someone or “gently” *pillory* them (*pillory* means “attack or ridicule publicly”). *M align* is also too negative, and you already read that Ms. Llewellyn doesn’t punish anyone, so *penalize* doesn’t work.

90. **L oaf.** The most important part of this sentence comes at the end. If teenagers haven’t been doing anything useful with their time, you need a word that means *do nothing useful with your time*. *Flirt* is something teenagers do, but it isn’t useless by definition (it can be quite fun!). *Ruminating* can also be useful, as it involves thinking. The correct answer is *loaf*. Note that the overall tone of this sentence is a bit sarcastic.

91. **G lib.** The clue in this short sentence is the word *eloquent*, which you need to flip because of the “rather than.” *Unscrupulous* and *inane* are negative but don’t really relate to speech. *Voluble* doesn’t have any negative connotations. *G lib*, meaning “fluent and talkative, but insincere and shallow,” fits perfectly.

92. **Specter.** For this sentence, it’s important that you know that nuclear holocaust never actually occurred, so it was only a *threat* that was a daily part of people’s lives. A secondary meaning of the word *specter* (which can also mean “ghost”) is “something widely feared as a dangerous occurrence.” All the other words have a kind of categorical relevance, but they don’t fit the sentence.

93. **R ail against.** This sentence shows you that the authors of the book come up with many examples against *those who see a paradigm for monogamy*. Both *skitter around* and *pass over* would imply the authors fail to find examples, and *conspire with* is the opposite of what you want. *Rail* means “com plain or protest strongly,” and is correct here.

94. **P uffery.** The words of the attendants are described as *the unctuous chatter of toadies*, which basically means “the sucking up of people who suck up a lot.” While *blather* is empty talk, and *confabulation* is invented talk, only *puffery* means “exaggerated or false praise,” which is exactly what you want here.

95. **L and, a plum .** The first blank needs to be a synonym of *get*. *Ascertain* doesn’t make sense, and *ensure* is used



incorrectly — the actress might want to *ensure* that she gets the part, but it doesn't make sense to say that she wants to *ensure* the part itself. The second blank should describe a role with lots of onscreen time and good scenes; you need a synonym for *good*. That's exactly what *plum* means.

**96. Disenfranchisement, suffrage.** The sentence gives you two examples involving the restriction of voting rights. *Disenfranchisement* is the deprivation of the right to vote, which fits best with the topic. Similarly, *suffrage* is the right to vote, and is the correct word for the second blank.

**97. Layperson, guesswork, a crack.** You are told that the plumber is not professional, so you need a word for the first blank that is the opposite of "professional." A *layperson* is a non-professional. For the second blank, you need a word describing how a non-professional would work. *Rote* implies experience, and *by numbers* means "following simple instructions," which is illogical because there's no reason to believe the layperson plumber has any instructions. *Guesswork* means he's just guessing what to do, which makes the most sense. Finally, since the plumber successfully and quickly fixed everything, you need a word in the third blank that means "good." *Crack* means "very good." *Extortionate* means "overly expensive"; there's no reason to believe someone is good just because they're overpriced.

**98. Mask, part and parcel.** The sentence says that people who work in the service industry *put on a smile for the customer*, implying that they *hide* their true emotions in some way. *Masquerade* is close, but it means either "to pretend to be someone" or "to be disguised as something else." Neither of these are quite right, so the correct word is *mask*. For the second blank, you need something like *a requirement*. *Apex* is a high point (i.e., "The *apex* of my career was playing for the Knicks."). *Once in a while* means a fanciful notion. *Part and parcel*, meaning "an essential piece of something," is the correct phrase.

**99. Decry.** *Decry* is "to speak disparagingly" and parallels the clue, "curse." None of the other choices are justified by the meaning of the text.

**100. Tacky, tactful, tactically.** The judgmental mind behind this sentence finds his grandmother's décor "vulgar," so the first blank should be a synonym for that. *Tacky* fits the bill. For the second blank, you need a word that describes what it is *not* to tell your grandmother you find all her knick-knacks ugly. *Rancorous* is the opposite of what you want, and *doting*, meaning "be extremely fond of," goes too far. *Tactful* fits perfectly. For the third blank, you need a word that describes being nice to someone in order to get a good birthday present. *Amicable* doesn't capture the strategy of it, but *duplicitous* is way too negative (it means "deceitful," which is not really an apt description for the act of refraining from telling your grandmother that she has terrible taste). *Tactically*, meaning "by way of showing adroit planning," is correct.

**101. Warded off, mutiny.** The second half of the sentence says that the crew *became frustrated* and *decided to take matters into their own hands*, implying that they took over the ship. *Mutiny* fits perfectly. (A *sea change* is "a profound transformation," while a *putsch* is "the overthrow of a government.") For the first blank, you need a word implying that the captain tried to fight off the mutiny. *Dissuading* is something you can do only to people (i.e., "I dissuaded the pirates from mutinying."). *Warded off* means "fended off" or "averted," which is perfect here.

**102. Aleatory, dispensations.** A "birth lottery" is offered as an example of the sort of element the first word describes. Since a lottery is random, based on chance, you would like your first word to be something like "due to luck," and that is just what *aleatory* means. The second word looks to be roughly synonymous with "gifts." *Dispensations* will work there, while *encumbrances* and *piques* are both negative.

**103. Perquisites, abide.** For the first word you want something like "non-salary rewards," and the only word that means that is *perquisites* (often informally abbreviated as "perks"). The word *but* tells you that Anne did not leave for

a larger salary, but stayed for the perquisites. For the second word you want something like “stay,” and only *abide* can have that meaning. (*Abide* more commonly means “tolerate” or “wait for.”)

104. **Detractors, vulgar.** *While* tells you that the clause after the comma will oppose the clause before the comma. So instead of “supporters,” you want “opposers.” The word *condemned* further hints that the first word will be something like “opposers/condemners.” Only *detractors* works. For the second word, you want a description that a detractor would apply to “earthy speech.” So you want “earthy, but in a bad way” — perhaps “coarse” or “unrefined” would serve. The word *vulgar* fits those descriptions. “come on.”

105. **Versatile, explicate.** For the first word, you want a word that agrees with “sophisticated,” but more importantly that explains why these mathematical tools are useful to those who aren’t even doing math, so you want a positive word that means “useful in many contexts.” *Versatile* is the best fit. For the second word, you’d want something like the “model,” in the sense of “explain,” that you saw earlier in the sentence. *Explicate* is the best match.

106. **Robust.** The bacteria that survive antibiotics would presumably be those hardest to kill. You might also want a word that means something like “drug-resistant.” The only word that means anything like “hard-to-kill” is *robust*.

107. **Prodigies.** The children who disprove the stereotype are the children stereotyped, so you want a word that means “children who are recognized as preternaturally intelligent.” Such children are *prodigies*.

108. **Heuristic, represent.** The first word is defined in the sentence as a device *useful for inciting and guiding discovery*. That’s precisely what *heuristic* means. If you are not meant to take the model of the psyche as guide to the physical structure of the brain, then you want a word that means something like “show” or “depict” for the second word. *Represent* is the closest.

109. **Technical, diffident.** Since *the medium ... lacked a voice*, it was technology of the day that prevented Lloyd from speaking on film, so the first word should be something like “technological.” *Technical* will do. For the second word, you’d like an adjective that would explain why a character would fail to speak, perhaps something like “mute.” *Diffident* means something like “self-effacing, very shy.” *Reluctant* is a bit of a trap answer — it does not mean “reluctant to speak” (the similar-sounding *reticent* does, and the two words are often confused).

110. **Evoke.** *Evoke* — to summon — is justified by the text. *Convoke* — to call a meeting to order — is not quite appropriate (maybe if there were multiple spirits — also a problem with *coalesced*). *Elicit* also has the wrong spin; it is more frequently used in the sense of eliciting information or opinions.

111. **Mordant, disquieted.** The first word should match “bitter and ironic,” and the second evidently means something like “uncomfortable.”

112. **Nonally, indifferent, come on cause.** “In fact” suggests that Russia did not have the same concern for the security of France and Great Britain as one would expect of an ally. For the first blank, we’d like a word that describes a not-fully-committed ally, and for the second blank, we’d like a word that means “not concerned.” *Nonally* works for the first word, as it means “in name (only).” *Indifferent* works for the second, as it means that Russia didn’t really care. The “but” that introduces the last clause tells you that Churchill argued that Russia would act as an ally, albeit only for its own national reasons. To make *come on cause* is to act as an ally.

113. **Attest to, quotidian.** *Just as... so too...* suggests that the mainstream novels show a gift, just as the science-fiction novels do. The first word should mean something like “show,” or “display.” Among these answers, only *attest* has that meaning. Incorrect choices *believe* and *gainsay* both indicate an opposite direction, which is incorrect, since

the *just as... so too...* structure indicates same direction. The second word should describe the world of mainstream, rather than science-fiction, novels. You want a word that means “not fantastic,” “ordinary,” “everyday.” *Quotidian* has just that meaning.

114. **Costive, dotage, doctrinaire.** You have a couple of clues for the meaning of the first word. It is paired with “uncommunicative” and seems to mean something like “slow to think.” Only *costive* among our choices means anything like that. Its original meaning, “constipated,” is still current, but the word is as likely to be used metaphorically to mean “slow to form or offer opinions.” Skip the middle word for a moment, and hope that you can spot some clue for it in figuring out the third word — the third word seems to mean “dogmatic,” and *doctrinaire* will do. You may not have much success anticipating an answer for your second blank, but fortunately two of the available answers are exceptionally bad matches — *jouissance* means “joy,” and *quiescence* means something like “rest” or “being at rest.” Nothing suggests either of these answers. *Dotage* means that period of old age when one’s mental faculties decline (it can also mean “foolishness,” especially foolish affection, regardless of age). This is the second correct answer: the editor was young, and is now old and foolish.

115. **Acerbic.** Crucial to this question is the word *chary*, which is essentially synonymous with *wary*. If the pundit is worried about appearing something, it is probably the opposite of what he or she actually does, which is being “diplomatic.” You’re thus looking for an antonym for “diplomatic.” *Acerbic*, which means “scathing or bitter,” is best.

116. **Draconian.** *Belied* means “contradict” or “be at odds with.” Thus, the boss’s on-the-job style is contradicted by his “amiable,” or “warm, friendly” style in the interview. You also have the clue that the young hire (the new employee) experiences “chagrin,” which is “mental distress or unease.” *Draconian*, which means “harsh, strict, or severe,” is best. Don’t be confused by *nonplussed*, the primary meaning of which is “confused” or “surprised” — it doesn’t capture the boss’s strictness.

117. **An exhaustive, remarkable variance.** The blank structure for this problem is tricky; in such cases you need to pay attention to the specific words in the sentence that give hints to the meanings of the blanks. For the first blank, you are looking for a modifier to “comprehension.” This “comprehension,” you learn, is *impeded... by labyrinthine complexities*. In other words, total, or *exhaustive*, comprehension is difficult because of these complexities. For the second blank, the key word is “reliable.” The relation of this word to the blank is given by “even the most,” telling you that these vintages are subject to something opposite to “reliable” — that is, *remarkable variance*.

118. **Casual nonchalance, farce.** If the clerk treats his “office” (a fancy way to say his “job”) with a general lack of respect, then he treats his clients with a similarly cool and distant manner, a manner of *casual nonchalance*. Note that the other two possibilities do not fit at all (*meticulousness* would be positive, and *envy* is not indicated by the sentence). As for the second blank, knowing that “grand farce” is a common English idiom is helpful but is not essential — the word *farce*, or “mockery,” is the only word that fits. A grand *gesture* would be positive (a *grand gesture* would be something like an elaborate marriage proposal, apology, etc.), and there is no clue that the clerk is making a *tirade*, or angry speech, nor does it make sense to treat one’s entire job like a *tirade*.

119. **Floes.** The blank agrees with the clue “melting ice,” thus *floes*, a synonym for glaciers, is correct. Trap answer *dirges* relates to “lamented” but is not what is decreasing in Greenland.

120. **Rife with contention, critical, seasoned practitioners.** This sentence is itself rife with ambiguity, so the best way to tackle it is to hunt down the most revealing clue words. Arguably the most important giveaway word in the whole two sentences is the word *gospel*, which is itself tricky because its primary definition has religious connotations. In fact, a secondary definition of *gospel* is “accepted fact,” or “agreed-upon truth.” Another crucial word is *tenet*, which also signifies an “accepted principle.” Finally, the word *even* is an important pivot that informs you of the relationship between these words and the second blank, which is where you should start. *Even* tells you that you

should be surprised. You should be surprised that certain *tenets that some might deem* \_\_\_\_\_ are *not* accepted as gospel. In other words, the blank should signify something crucial, or *critical*, to the general philosophy of psychoanalysis. Moving to the third blank, you see another “even,” once again indicating something contrary to expectation. You would *expect* the people very experienced in the field, or the most *seasoned practitioners*, to subscribe most strongly to the central tenets of the field. Now return to the first blank. You learned in the second sentence that there is disagreement in the field, even between the most experienced practitioners, about the fundamental tenets of the practice of psychoanalysis. In other words, the field is subject to great debate, or *rife with contention*.

121. **Antipathy, patent, mutual benefit.** The first and third blanks are highly related, so consider them first. You learn in the first clause of the sentence that there is “antagonism,” or hostility, between two people, but from the word *apparent* you learn that there is more to this than meets the eye. More than pure “hatred,” or *antipathy*, is something that allows the two individuals to “derive inspiration and motivation from the other.” In other words, there is a *mutual benefit* to the seemingly hostile relationship. Now return to the second blank. Because the structure of the sentence tells you that the antagonism *could be* written off, *but* further scrutiny renders it (blank), you know you want a word that goes in the same direction (that is, you will *not* be “writing off” the antagonism). The best word here is *patent*, which, when used as an adjective, means “obvious” or “evident.”

122. **Hyperboles.** The answer must match the clues “flights of fancy” and “arching far beyond reality.” *Hyperbole* is exaggeration and is the only choice that fits.

123. **Initially, given teeth.** For the first blank, you need something to contrast with “subsequent.” Thus, you need a word that means “at first.” In the second blank, you need something that will contrast with having “little impact” and will match the idea of a law now gaining funding and enforcement. Only *given teeth* has this (obviously metaphorical) meaning.

124. **Contrapuntal.** You are looking for a word that means “having two distinct components,” since the opera is capable of evoking two distinct emotions. *Contrapuntal* means “having two or more independent harmonies,” and is a good fit. *Macabre* is a trap, since it goes along with horror but leaves out joy. *Articulate* is related to speech and is inappropriate here. And while the technique may be *contrived* (not natural, planned) or *figurative* (using metaphor or other non-literal device to convey meaning), nothing in the sentence suggests either.

125. **Buttress.** *Buttress*, as a noun or a verb, relates to support and is therefore justified by the clue “additional support.” None of the other choices relate to the text. Note that you certainly do *not* need to memorize architectural terms for the GRE, but you should definitely know the metaphorical meaning of *buttress* (to support), and the sentence provides the clue about “needed additional support,” so this question is fair game.

126. **Veracity, consistent with.** No single experiment can ever prove the “truth,” or *veracity*, of a theory. *Rationality* is close but connotes the idea of the theory being logical, rather than factual. For the second blank, in order for the theory to be supported, or “resilient,” the results from independent labs should agree with each other, or be *consistent with* each other.

127. **Pertinent, deeply humbling.** Sleep is important, or *relevant*, to your daily life, making *pertinent* the best word for the first blank. Don’t be misled by the fact that you don’t fully understand sleep into choosing *mysterious* or *obscure*; both are trap answers (being ignorant about a mysterious or obscure topic is hardly “fascinating”). It is also grammatically incorrect to call a topic *mysterious* or *obscure to your daily life*. Regarding the second blank, the expression “at once X and Y” indicates at least a loose contrast, so you need something that could contrast with *fascinating*. The clue “so ignorant” is a good indication that what you want is *deeply humbling*. Don’t fall for the trap answer *fully impenetrable*. While the topic of sleep is presented as somewhat impenetrable (that is, hard to

understand),the blank is not describing sleep,but rather your ignorance about it.

128.**Waxed,barely stirred.**You've been told that there is a "discrepancy" or mismatch between Mozart's fame and his financial situation,so whatever happened to one did not happen to the other.The clue "beyond measure" tells you that his musical star must have grown,so *waxed* is the only possibility for the first blank.That means Mozart's income must have either gone down,remained low or *barely stirred*,which is the correct answer for the second blank.It could not be the case that his income "grew exponentially" or "remained exorbitant," or there would be no "discrepancy."

129.**Basis,sop,moot.**The first sentence begins with *though*,so the first part containing the blank should be opposed to the second part,saying that the Amendment was actually meant to appease opponents.So,the best choice is *basis*. Your second word should echo "appease." *Sop*,which can mean "something given to pacify," is closest.Since Article 1,section 8 apparently made the Third Amendment of only abstract concern,you want an answer that means something like "of no practical importance." *Moot*,which can mean "of mere academic interest," is your best option.

130.**Assent.**While the structure might seem tricky,the blank must oppose *refusing for a decade* since the patriarch "surrendered." A green would be a good focus.The other choices do not fit the text and are essentially phonetic tricks.A n *asseveration* is an emphatic assertion.Note the word *avaricious* in the sentence — it means "greedy," but it turns out that you didn't need to know that to answer this question.

131.**Peril,simulacrum ,terrifies.***Even* suggests that first word describes the sort of thing you might otherwise expect a thrill seeker to find attractive.You want something bad — a meaning like,"too thrilling,in a bad way." You are also told that *these patrons want not danger*,so you might anticipate a word as simple as "danger." *Peril* is the best choice.Although "titillation" does describe a sort of thrill,it is neither negative,nor does it suggest danger.The third word is probably easier to anticipate than the second,so let's skip ahead."In fact" suggests that you want a word that means "seems to be unsafe," and the earlier "thrill-seeking visitors" suggests that you want something,well, thrilling.So anticipate "seems unsafe,thrills," and take *terrifies* as your closest synonym .*Satisfies* yields a perfectly fine sentence,but there is no reason to anticipate quite that meaning.To return to your second word,you now know you want a word that means something like "imitation," and *simulacrum* is the closest synonym among your answers.

132.**Dilettantes,apprenticeship.**Your first word should indicate an opposite of the "professionals" with "training." The word that suggests itself is *amateurs*,and the closest answer to that is *dilettantes*,which is roughly synonymous with "dabblers." The second word should suggest a type of "training," and among your options only *apprenticeship* does so.*Accum* might be the result of training,but it is not itself training.

133.**Render.***Rend* means "to tear apart." This question relies entirely on vocabulary.*Gather* is to gather.*Garnish* is to decorate (or to subtract from a person's wages to pay a debt).*Garland*,as a verb,is to crown.*Render* is to make,do, or provide.None matches the meaning of the text.

134.**Indifferent,makeshift,chronic.***But* suggests that your first word should be the opposite of "wonderfully responsive," perhaps "badly unresponsive." *Indifferent*,which means "without concern or interest," is the nearest match>Your second word should take from the phrase "limping along," so you might expect something like "make-do," or "expedient." The closest synonym to those is *makeshift*.Finally,the last word describes the sort of problems that don't receive adequate responses,the very problems described earlier as "perennial," so anticipate that same meaning.*Chronic* is the best choice.

135.**Eminence,influence.**Borrowing another word from the sentence,your first word should be something like "significance." The closest option is *eminence*,which suggests great importance.If Hopper argues that the book was *among the most important* in spite of the fact that it cannot have had an impact on O'Brien's contemporaries,then he

must appeal to some standard other than “impact.” *Influence* is the word most nearly synonymous with “impact.” Because “currency” echoes the concern about how widely read the book was, it might appeal, but it isn’t the meaning we’d anticipate here.

136. **D enigrate, balkanized.** Beginning with the second blank, the clue is “class warfare.” A society with class warfare is divided into hostile groups, or *balkanized*, but it need not be either *socialized* or *politicized*. This means that politicians try to dismiss or belittle talk of class warfare, or *denigrate* it. *Besmirch* means to “attack the honor of something” — although the word is negative, it isn’t quite appropriate here.

137. **Scrutiny, sequelae.** Anthropologists are attempting to understand, examine, or scrutinize other societies. (Also, both *objectivity* and *society* are traps: they may be objective scientists, but their objectivity doesn’t have “subjects”; and the societies they are studying are *not* theirs.) In the second blank, you are looking for something that means unintended or secondary consequences, or *sequelae*. The other answer choices are close in meaning to “incongruous,” and would be redundant in the sentence.

138. **An ironclad.** Since the final part of the sentence is meant to go against the idea that the Second Amendment provides a “guarantee” of a private right, you need to fill the blank in the first part with something that reinforces the guarantee. *Ironclad* means “rigid or fixed,” and does what you need here. *Defeasible* and *questionable* would undermine the guarantee. Nothing in the passage has any bearing on whether the guarantee is *earnest*.

139. **A nostrum, a nuisance.** When you have a society in which dissenting opinions are socially stigmatized, valuing the right to dissent seems useless. A *nostrum* is “an ineffective remedy,” and is appropriately used metaphorically here. A *catalyst* helps a reaction or change to occur, and an *adjutant* is “something that assists or aids,” both of which would be the opposite of what you need. In the second blank, you are looking for something that is negative but weaker than “outcast.” *Nuisance* works perfectly here. *Assassin* is too strong, while *misery* is unrelated in meaning.

140. **An anemic.** While *anemia* is a medical condition, *anemic* as a metaphor means “weak or lacking vitality.” *Myopia*, or “nearsightedness,” also makes a good metaphor, but describes people and their decisions. The job market hasn’t been *botched* (who botched it?), and the other choices are nonsensical.

141. **Touchstone.** You need a clue that matches *more than a hit movie* (and goes with the idea of having meaning for a whole generation of people). *Touchstone* matches perfectly. *Cornerstone* doesn’t work — a cultural *touchstone* is a single important event, place, work of art, etc. A cultural *cornerstone* would be something the whole society is built upon (like individualism, Islam, or the monarchy, depending on the society). A *rudder* is literally part of a ship related to steering; if you are lost in life, you are “like a ship without a rudder.” Note that a *bolster* is pretty similar to a *stanchion*, at least when used metaphorically to mean a support (literally, a *bolster* is a pillow and a *stanchion* is an upright bar or post), so neither could be the answer.